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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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November 30, 2010

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Linda Roberts
Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 412** – SBA Towers II and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and management of a telecommunications facility located at Wewaka Brook Road, Bridgewater, Connecticut.

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of correspondence from the Bridgewater Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission dated October 27, 2010 concerning the above-referenced application.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50/(b), a copy of the application is to be submitted to the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission for review. In the event that the Bridgewater Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission does not avail itself of the opportunity to attain party or intervenor status under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n, this correspondence shall become part of the record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance.

Therefore, copies of this correspondence are being distributed to all participants in this proceeding and will also be administratively noticed in the record.

LR/laf

October 27, 2010

Connecticut Siting Council:

It is requested that a REPLY acknowledging receipt of this response be emailed to the sender.

On October 5, 2010 the Bridgewater Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (BCIWC) held a special meeting to conduct a site visit at the proposed location for a new SBA/AT&T cell tower on property with access at 89 Wewaka Brook Road, Bridgewater, CT. Commission members present included Greg Bollard, Denise Fitch, Bob Kelly, Alex McNaughton, Curtis Read and Vic Nelson. Also present were Attorney Dan Laub; Hollis Redding, SBA; Dean Gustavson, soil scientist; Kevin Day, AT&T; Paul Lusitani, Project Engineer; Ernest Lacasse, SBA.

Based on that site visit, along with project plan drawings, a topographic map and aerial photo supplied by Mr. Laub the BCIWC offers the following response with regard the proposed project.

- 1) The project plan contains far fewer details than are generally included in a permit application submitted to the Commission. No specific information is provided regarding the bridge replacing the existing bridge near the start of the 12' wide gravel access drive. No details are provided for the two wetland crossings (drawings C-2B and C-2C). No details are provided for the installation of the 42" deep conduit corridor particularly with reference to the wetlands crossings. No dimensions are provided for culverts proposed for new crossings of wetlands #3 and #4. No watershed or drainage calculations are provided. Erosion control measures are not defined, particularly with regards the two very sensitive vernal pools down gradient from the actual tower site. There are no details as to how much material will be disturbed during road construction, where it will be stockpiled and eventually distributed.
- 2) The project engineer explained that the actual tower will be transported to the site in approximately 40' sections on full length tractor trailers. This fact alone makes all drawings (C-1, C-2A, C-2B, C-2C) non-representative. These drawings describe a 2,215' gravel access drive that is 12' wide for its entire length, including the four turns on C-2B and the three turns on C-3B. However tractor trailer access requires turn radii far in excess of 12'. Six of the seven turns are located within the woodlands areas thus greatly increasing the number of trees removed, and, more importantly, three of the turns are immediately adjacent to wetlands, greatly increasing the disturbance. The fact that this additional clearing and disturbance is to accommodate a one-time event, that is, the use of tractor trailers to transport tower sections, begs for an alternative. Can the tower be assembled from 20' sections? During the site walk someone suggested half in just a heavy-lift helicopter. Perhaps such an alternative should be explored. Lifting the tower sections the final 3000' would be far more economical than altering a ½ mile long 12' wide gravel drive to accommodate a one-off delivery by tractor trailers, and it would significantly diminish the environmental damage.
- 3) While the efforts to avoid wetland #4 on C-2B are admirable, the right turn (approx. 30 degrees) immediately followed by a left turn (approx. 90 degrees) shortly followed by a right turn

(approx. 105 degrees) followed by a left turn (approx. 45 degrees) seems in combination unfeasible considering the turn radii requirements described above.

- 4) The Commission feels strongly that, assuming approval of the project, at no time during the construction or maintenance of this site should herbicides or pesticides be used. The vernal pools and larger wetlands area near the tower site are some of the most pristine observed in our jurisdiction. Furthermore, no salt or chemicals should be used for winter maintenance of the roadway due to the sensitive nature of the areas immediately adjacent to the road bed. Also, due to the scale of tree removal, the dense canopy will be opened thus inviting invasive species to establish along the roadway. An inspection and maintenance plan should be established to prevent such an occurrence.
- 5) The fact that the 42" deep conduit corridor may require blasting to cross wetland #3 is a source of serious concern to the Commission. Drainage or water flow could be significantly altered.
- 6) The BCIWC recognizes that jurisdiction over the approval of this project lies with the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC). However the Commission assumes the CSC's decision-making process is guided by the Connecticut General Statutes, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection regulations, as well as the local municipalities' regulations with regard negative impact on wetland areas and general environmental disturbance. In light of this the Commission viewed it a useful exercise to consider the cell tower project as if it were a normal permit application. If that were the case the Commission would decline to consider the application until the applicant provided the missing information delineated in Section 1. The Commission would require a detailed sediment and erosion control plan to include specific placement of all erosion control barriers. The Commission would require a detailed watershed analysis. The Commission would require details and sections for all wetland crossings. The Commission would require details and sections of the 42" deep conduit corridor. The Commission would require details and sections of the replacement bridge. The Commission would require a detailed construction sequence. Even if all this information was provided and was deemed accurate and reliable by the Commission, it is questionable whether the project would be approved. This is an extremely difficult site if environmental disturbance and damage is weighed in the balance. In such a situation our regulations demand a search for a prudent alternative. We realize that a cell tower site introduces extenuating circumstances but we hope that every effort will be made by the CSC to determine if that prudent alternative exists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Kelly
Chairman, Bridgewater Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission
860-354-8961

**LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST**

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Applicant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	SBA Towers III and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)	<p>Daniel M. Laub, Esq. Christopher B. Fisher, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th floor White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 761-1300 (914) 761-5372 dlaub@cuddyfeder.com cfisher@cuddyfeder.com</p> <p>Michele Briggs AT&T 500 Enterprise Drive Rocky Hill, CT 06067 Michele.g.briggs@cingular.com</p> <p>Hollis Redding SBA One Research Drive, Suite 200C Westborough, MA 01581 hredding@sbsite.com</p>